Transport subsidy to ArunachM Pradesh

660. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whehter it is a fact that the decision of the previous Government to release transport subsidies to the Govern ment of Arunachal Pradesh to the tune of Rupees two crores eighteen lakh eight thousand eight hundred twenty seven (Rs. 2, 18, 08, 827/-) is still pending unpaid; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Out of a claim for Rs. 2, 18, 08, 827/- received from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, an amount of Rs. 2, 12, 71, 512/- was released to the State Government in respect of eligible units in March, 1991.

Closed/sick industrial units in Arunachal Pradesh

661. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) -what is the number of closed/ sick small and medium industrial units in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) what are the reasons for their sickness; and

(c) what efforts have been made to revive these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) Data on sick industrial units assisted by the banks in the country is being collected by the Reserve Bank of India. However, they do not collect specific data on closed industrial units. As per the latest information available from Reserve Bank of India there are 20 sick units in SSI sector and one sick unit in Non-SSI sector in the State of Arunachal Pradesh as at the end of December, 1988.

(b) A number of causes, both **avternnl nnH internal are responisble** for industrial sickness in the country. Among the major causes are: faulty project planning, management deficiencies inefficient financial control, diversion of resources, inadequate attention to R&D, obsolescence of technology and machinery, poor industrial relations, change in market demand, high cost and scarcity of raw materials and other inputs and infrastructural constraints.

(c) For revival of sick industrial units, Government of India have got a uniform policy for the whole country. Some of the important aspects are as follows: —

(i) The Government have enac ted a comprehensive legislation namely 'The Sick Industrial Com panies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985'. A quasi-judicial body designa ted as 'The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)' has been set up under the Act to deal with the problems of sick industrial companies In an effective manner$_i$ which has become operational with effect from the 15th May, 1987. •

(ii) The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to the banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and for arresting industrial sickness at the incident stage so that correcttive measures are taken in time.

(iii) The banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units. The banks and financial institutions evolve rehabilitation packages for the revival of sick units.

(iv) Reserve Bank of India have also issued guidelines separately to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and. concessions for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units without reference to 1 RBI both in the large and smaU scale sectors.

(v) Government of India introduced a Margin Money Scheme with a view to supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in reducing the incidence of sickness in the small scale sector. Under the liberalised scheme the maximum amount of assistance per unit available to sick small scale units for rehabilitation has been increased from Rs. 20, 000 to Rs. 50, 000/-.

(v. i) An Excise Relief Scheme for weak units has also been announced. The scheme would apply to any unit in which 50 per cent or more of the maximum net worth in any of the previous five accounting years has been eroded by accumulated losses. The unit should have a rehabilitation, modernisation or diversification package approved by a designated financial institution. The eligible unit would be entitled to an interest free loan, with a grace period of 3 years and repayable over seven years, amounting to 50 per cent of its actual excise payments for three years subsequent to the approval of the scheme. The total amount given by way of such 'excise loans' will not exceed 25 per cent of the overall cost of rehabilitation/modernisation/diversification.

(vii) A small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been established in April 1990 to function as an Apex Bank for tiny and small scale industries. The paid up capital of this bank is Rs. 250 crores.

662. *[Transferred to 30th July,* 1991.]

Setting up of a Consumer Protection Fund

663. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Consumer Protection Fund;

(b) if so, the details of, the proposed fund; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED); (a) to (c) The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

Eligibility Scheme for inventors to become Entrepreneurs

604. SHRI KRISHAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Science and Technology had worked out a scheme to encourage inventors to become entrepreneurs in the backward regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) progress achived in providing employment under the scheme, locationwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE EN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Upliftment of Neglected Villages

665. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to uplift existing villages which were neglected so far; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking or propose to take in this matter?